

Saskatchewan Labour

2006 Census of Canada

LABOUR FORCE

Saskatchewan's 2006 Census labour force was 524,305 which represent an increase of 2.4 percent from 2001. Employment rose 3.2 percent over the same 5 year time period.

In addition, a higher proportion of Saskatchewan persons both worked and participated in the labour force in 2006 over 2001. The employment rate (the number of persons employed as a percentage of the total labour force age population) rose 1.7 percent to 64.6 percent in 2006 from 2001 while the participation rate rose 0.9 percent during the same time period.

Table 1 provides the 2006 and 2001 Census data for Saskatchewan by Labour force characteristics.

**Table 1: Census Labour Force Characteristics
2006 and 2001**

	2006	2001	% Change
Labour Force	524,305	512,240	2.4%
Employment	494,900	479,735	3.2%
Employment Rate	64.6	63.5	1.7%
Unemployment Rate	5.6	6.3	-11.1%
Participation Rate	68.4	67.8	0.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada

Saskatchewan posted the lowest growth rate (3.2 percent) for employment of the provinces between 2001 and 2006 while Alberta (15.6 percent) British Columbia (13.5 percent) posted the two highest growth rates amongst the provinces. Nationally, employment grew by 9.0 percent between 2001 and 2006.

Saskatchewan recorded the third lowest unemployment rate in 2006 at 5.6 percent, behind only Alberta (4.3 percent) and Manitoba (5.5 percent). The Canadian unemployment rate for 2006, according to the Census, was 6.6 percent.

ABORIGINAL LABOUR FORCE

Saskatchewan Aboriginals continued to have higher rates of unemployment than non-Aboriginal populations, according to the Census, however the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal is slowly closing.

The Aboriginal unemployment rate was 18.2 percent in 2006 (down from 23.0 percent in 2001) compared to the non-Aboriginal unemployment rate of 4.2 percent (down from 4.8 percent in 2001). The First Nations unemployment rate was 24.9 percent in 2006 while Métis had an unemployment rate of 10.6 percent. These represent significant improvements from the 2001 unemployment rates of 29.4 and 15.5 percent, respectively.

Aboriginal participation and employment rates also improved between 2001 and 2006. Table 2 highlights selected labour force rates by Aboriginal identity.

**Table 2: Census Labour Force Characteristics
Aboriginal Identity
2006 and 2001**

	2006	2001	% Change
Participation Rate			
Total Population	68.4	67.8	0.9%
Total Aboriginal	56.4	54.5	3.5%
First Nations	49.0	46.9	4.5%
Métis	68.2	67.4	1.2%
Non-Aboriginal	70.1	69.3	1.2%
Employment Rate			
Total Population	64.6	63.5	1.7%
Total Aboriginal	46.1	42.0	9.8%
First Nations	36.8	33.1	11.2%
Métis	61.0	56.9	7.2%
Non-Aboriginal	67.1	66.0	1.7%
Unemployment Rate			
Total Population	5.6	6.3	-11.1%
Total Aboriginal	18.2	23.0	-20.9%
First Nations	24.9	29.4	-15.3%
Métis	10.6	15.5	-31.6%
Non-Aboriginal	4.2	4.8	-12.5%

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LABOUR FORCE BY INDUSTRY

The industrial structure of the Saskatchewan economy changed between 2001 and 2006. While agriculture continued to be the largest industry in the provincial economy, it shrunk by over 13,000 persons between 2001 and 2006 (from almost 73,000 persons in 2001 to just over 60,000 in 2006).

However, significant growth occurred for mining, educational services, retail trade, professional, scientific and technical services, health care and social assistance, and construction.

LABOUR FORCE BY OCCUPATION

Mirroring the changing industrial structure were changes to labour force by occupation. Occupations unique to primary industry dropped almost 12,300 from 2001 to 67,660 persons in 2006. These losses would have been even larger if not for an increase of nearly 1,400 persons employed in occupations unique to forestry operations, mining, oil and gas extraction, and fishing.

Occupational groups experiencing significant labour force gains were trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations, business, finance and administrative occupations, and occupations in social science, education, government service and religion. Health occupations and natural and applied sciences and related occupations also posted gains from 2001.

COMMUTING TO WORK

Despite a relatively small population density, the average distance of commute for Saskatchewan (4.5 km) is less than the Canadian average (7.6 km). Estevan, Swift Current and Yorkton reported the shortest median commutes while Saskatoon, Regina and Prince Albert reported the longest median commute. Provincially, 53.5 percent of persons commuted less than 5 km to their usual place of work with only 12.0 percent traveling 30 km or more

All data in this report are based on the 2006 Census of Canada. The Census data are not directly comparable with Labour Force Survey estimates produced by Statistics Canada. Census statistics include Indian reserves which are not part of the Labour Force universe. As well, Census Labour Force estimates are not adjusted for net undercount. All data in this report are preliminary and subject to revision. For more details, contact the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics at (306) 787-6327 or visit www.stats.gov.sk.ca.